

**Michigan Department of Community Health  
Office of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care - Prevention and Treatment Section**

**SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

The \_\_\_\_\_ County Health Department/coordinating agency or \_\_\_\_\_ Coalition is organizing a Youth Tobacco Act Compliance Check on tobacco retailers and vending machines in this area. This is part of a statewide effort to determine the extent of tobacco sales to minors.

The Youth Tobacco Act states that it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18. It is also illegal for anyone under 18 to purchase tobacco products. Retailers and businesses that are making large profits on selling tobacco to children frequently ignore this law.

Tobacco is the number one cause of preventable death in our society. Each year thousands of teens become addicted to tobacco. The short-term goal of this project is to determine how many retailers are illegally selling tobacco to minors. Our long-term goal is to create awareness of the youth tobacco problem and reduce the sales of tobacco to minors, therefore preventing our children from beginning a lifetime addiction to tobacco.

The project involves a visit to specific retailers/outlets around the county that sell tobacco products. The youth enters the store, attempts to make a tobacco purchase (either from over-the-counter or a vending machine), and records the results. Youth aged 16 and 17 are needed for this purpose. Adults are also needed to drive the teens and to oversee the purchases.

There will be a training session for teens and adult chaperones on (date and time) to discuss the project. A permission slip is also enclosed. If you agree to have your child participate in this project, please fill this form out. Please have your child bring the permission slip with him/her to the training session. Be sure not to talk with anyone about this project until it is over.

This project has been utilized successfully in several other locations in Michigan. I am confident that it can be accomplished with your assistance. Thank you for your help in keeping our youth healthy! If you have any questions or concerns please call (Coordinating Agency or DYTUR).

Sincerely,